

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01 OC-05

USIA-06 BIB-01 /056 W

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R 281655Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7559

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB EI

SUBJ: POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS STRIKE

1. AN "UNOFFICIAL" STRIKE SINCE JAN. 26 OF APPROXIMATELY 2000
POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS IN DUBLIN HAS HAD A SERIOUS
EFFECT ON GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS HERE. NOW THE UNION HAS VOTED
AN "OFFICIAL" STRIKE OF ALL 6000 P & T WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY
TO COMMENCE FEB. 2. ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE ENOUGH MANAGEMENT
PERSONNEL TO MAINTAIN A MINIMAL LEVEL OF OPERATING SERVICES, WE
HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT REPAIRS FOR OUTAGES EXCEPT IN "TRUE
EMERGENCIES" WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE. IN PRACTICAL TERMS THIS MEANS
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT EMBASSY COULD BE WITHOUT TELECOM-
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MUNICATIONS OR TELEPHONE SERVICE NEXT WEEK, AND MAIL SERVICES

DURING THE STRIKE ARE RATHER UNRELIABLE.

2. THE STRIKE HAS BEEN CALLED OVER A LONG LIST OF GREVANCES, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH RELATE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FREEZE ON "SPECIAL" INCREASES OF SALARY (I.E. INCREASES BASED ON RECLASSIFICATION OR INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY). THE P & T WORKERS CLAIM THEY WERE DUE SUCH AN INCREASE LONG BEFORE THE FREEZE TOOK EFFECT. THE WORKERS ARE ALSO COMPLAINING ABOUT BAD WORKING CONDITIONS AND UNDERSTAFFING RESULTING IN OVERWORK. SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT IS STAUNCHLY REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE.

3. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE UNION LEADERSHIP THAT THERE WILL LIKELY BE A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT SOON, PERHAPS BEFORE THE "OFFICIAL" STRIKE BEGINS ON MONDAY. HOWEVER, MEANWHILE OUR COMMUNICATIONS MAY GO OUT ANY TIME. CURLEY

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